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determined in order to diagnose the α_{2u} -globulin nephropathy which is caused in male rats by the administration of chemical substances. However, it is a mere method for a specific nephropathy model, wherein α_{2u} -globulin remarkably accumulates.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 7 and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend the following claims:

C2
Claim 9. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the antibody specifically binding to the liver-type fatty acid binding protein is an antibody that does not cross-react with a heart muscle-type fatty acid binding protein.

C3
Claim 14. (Twice Amended) A reagent or kit for diagnosis or prognosis, which is used in the method according to any one of claims 16, 2, 4, 6, 9, and 17-26.

C4
Claim 17. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the step (b) is carried out by

(i) contacting the specimen with an antibody specifically binding to liver-type fatty acid binding protein;

CS (ii) separating unbound antibody from the antibody bound to said protein; and

(iii) detecting the antibody bound to said protein.

CS Claim 23. (Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the immune complex nephropathy is selected from the group consisting of IgA nephropathy and membranous nephropathy.

Please add the following claims:

24. (New) A method for diagnosing the progression of kidney disease in a patient suffering therefrom, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a specimen collected from said patient;

(b) assaying for liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and

(c) diagnosing the progression of the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b).

CS 25. (New) A method for prognosing the further progress of kidney disease in a patient suffering therefrom, comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a specimen collected from said patient;
- (b) assaying for liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and
- (c) prognosing the further progress of the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b).

26. (New) A method for determining the effect of medication in a patient suffering from kidney disease and being medicated for said kidney disease, comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing a specimen collected from said patient;
- (b) assaying for liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and
- (c) determining the effect of said medication on the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b).

Attached hereto is a marked up version showing the changes made to the application by this Amendment.